GUSTAV HOLST
THE PLANETS
I. Mars, the Bringer of War
II. Venus, the Bringer of Peace
III. Mercury, the Winged Messenger
IV. Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity
V. Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age
VI. Uranus, the Magician
VII. Neptune, the Mystic
HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

This guide is designed as a curriculum enhancement resource primarily for music teachers, but is also available for use by classroom teachers, parents, and students. The main intent is to aid instructors in their own lesson preparation, so most of the language and information is geared towards the adult, and not the student. It is not expected that all the information given will be used or that all activities are applicable to all settings. Teachers and/or parents can choose the elements that best meet the specific needs of their individual situations. Our hope is that the information will be useful, spark ideas, and make connections.

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CREDITS

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CSO EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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Gustav Holst was born on September 21, 1874 in Cheltenham, England. Gustav was the eldest of two children in his family. His father, Adolph von Holst, was an accomplished pianist from Sweden and taught piano in England. His mother, Clara von Holst, studied piano under Adolph when they first met. Clara died after the miscarriage of her third child; Gustav was only eight. Gustav was a very sensitive and fragile child growing up. He had severe asthma and poor eyesight. Gustav was taught the piano and violin at a very early age. He detested practicing the violin, but had a special interest in the piano.

Determined to make his son an outstanding pianist, Gustav’s father sent him to Cheltenham Grammar School for composition in 1885 and Gustav also spent two months at Oxford learning counterpoint. Despite his father’s urgings, practicing piano was difficult for young Holst because he suffered from a neuritis condition in his hands.

Holst turned to composition and was highly prolific in his early teenage years. By 1891, at the age of 17, Holst had achieved several local performances of his vocal and instrumental works. In 1892, Gustav composed an operetta, called Lansdown Castle, which was produced at the Cheltenham Corn Exchange the following year. Gustav’s father was so impressed by his son’s operetta that he provided Gustav with enough money to attend the Royal College of Music.

A year before entering into the Royal College of Music, Holst received his first professional vocation as an organist at Wyck Rissington Church. He was the later the organist and choirmaster of the choral society at Bourton-on-the-Water. These experiences would remain crucial in Holst’s life as a musician. Upon enrollment at the Royal College of Music, Holst studied composition under Charles Stanford who taught Holst the most important aspect of becoming a better musician by showing him how to become his own critic.

In 1895, Holst met a classmate named Ralph Vaughan Williams. Williams and Holst became the best of friends throughout college and shared common interests in folk music, mythology, astrology, and Indian Hinduism. These unique interests of Williams and Holst would later have a great impact on Holst’s compositions. Holst’s other influences included composers Henry Purcell and Richard Wagner and the philosophies of Walt Whitman and William Morris.

In 1896, Holst pursued his interest in Hindu literature and philosophy and enrolled in Sanskrit lessons at the University College in London. At the same time, he was appointed conductor of the Hammersmith Socialist Choir at William Morris’ house in Hammersmith Mall. He fell in love with the youngest soprano named Isobel Harrison, whom he would later marry.
Holst faced further problems with his neuritis condition in college. He could no longer practice the piano because the pain in his hands was too severe. Holst, knowing his career as a pianist was fading, decided to learn the trombone, which also helped his asthmatic affliction. By being a trombonist, he could be in the orchestra and still have an income and also strengthen his skills as a composer. In 1897, Gustav joined the Queen’s Hall Orchestra and played under the baton of composer Richard Strauss. As an enthusiastic trombonist, Holst’s performance career was also prominent in the Carl Rosa Opera Company Orchestra, Scottish Orchestra in Glasgow and the freelance world. In addition to being an orchestral performer, Holst worked as a music conductor at numerous schools throughout London. Holst was an encouraging conductor and believed that every student who desires to play in the orchestra should have that chance.

Holst and Isobel Harrison were married in 1901. In 1903, the composer decided to end his orchestral playing career and become a teacher, succeeding Ralph Vaughn Williams at the James Allen’s Girls School in Dulwich, and eventually at the St. Paul’s Girls School in Hammersmith, where he taught for the rest of his life. In 1907, Gustav and Isobel’s daughter Imogen was born. Like her father, Imogen devoted her life to music after attending St. Paul’s School. She studied composition at the Royal College of Music, and then became the Artistic Director of the Dartington Hall Arts Centre.

In 1912, Holst and his friend, Clifford Bax, went to Spain for a holiday. While in Spain, Clifford Bax encouraged Holst to study Astrology, which inspired the composer’s ideas for The Planets. Upon his return to London, Holst began work on his most famous work, and by the time Holst finished his masterpiece, Europe was deep in the turmoil of World War I.

English conductor, Sir Adrian Boult, was a great admirer of Holst’s music. Boult was later the one who conducted the very first public performance of The Planets in London in 1918, performed by the New Queen’s Hall Orchestra. The Planets soon made Holst famous worldwide, and the popularity of the work yielded the performance and publication of several of his earlier works.

Being a passionate educator, Holst accepted the position of theory and composition faculty member at the Royal College of Music in 1919. In 1923, while conducting, Holst fell off the stage and suffered from a concussion, which forced him to retire. However, Gustav kept his teaching position at St. Paul’s Girls School and began composing again. In 1927, Holst was honored by his hometown, Cheltenham, when they arranged a Holst Festival.

In 1932, Holst was honored as guest composition lecturer at Harvard University. Poor health cut his United States visit short and he was forced to return in England, but still continued to compose, despite his invalid status. Gustav Holst passed away on May 25, 1934 due to heart failure. His legacy as a prominent 20th Century composer rests on the success and popularity of The Planets.
**The Planets, Op. 32**

Originally entitled *Seven Pieces for Large Orchestra*, *The Planets, Op.32* is a seven-movement orchestral suite by the English composer, Gustav Holst, written between 1914-1916. Each movement uniquely represents a planet of the solar system, and expresses distinctive characteristics and emotions of the planets based on their appearance and the Roman and Greek mythological tales based on gods and goddesses with the same names. The order of the movements corresponds to the distance of each planet from Earth:

I. *Mars, the Bringer of War*
II. *Venus, the Bringer of Peace*
III. *Mercury, the Winged Messenger*
IV. *Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity*
V. *Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age*
VI. *Uranus, the Magician*
VII. *Neptune, the Mystic.*

At the time, no composer had written a work of *The Planets' equal in terms of scale and multi-movements. Especially in terms of orchestra size, The Planets was a rarity among orchestral repertoire of the early 20th Century with its scoring for at least 80 players, including special instrumentation, and 6-voice women’s chorus. The instrumentation for the work is as follows:

- 4 Flutes (3rd doubling 1st Piccolo; 4th doubling 2nd Piccolo; Bass Flute in G (or Alto flute))
- 3 Oboes (3rd doubling Bass Oboe)
- 1 English Horn
- 3 Clarinets in Bb
- 1 Bass clarinet in Bb
- 3 Bassoons
- 1 Contrabassoon
- 6 Horns in F
- 4 Trumpets in C
- 3 Trombones (2 Tenor; 1 Bass)
- 1 Euphonium in Bb
- 1 Bass Tuba
- 1 Celesta
- 1 Organ
- 6 Timpani (2 players, 3 drums each)
- 9 Percussion (Bass Drum, Snare Drum, Cymbals, Triangle, Gong, Tambourine, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Tubular Bells)
- 2 Harps
- 10 Violin I
- 10 Violin II
- 8 Viola
- 8 Violoncellos
- 4 Double basses
- 2 three-part women’s choruses (SSA)
The idea for *The Planets* was conceived in 1913 from Holst’s thorough interest in Astrology and Sanskrit literature. The first movement, *Mars, the Bringer of War*, being completed in 1914 in anticipation of the outbreak of World War I. *Venus* and *Jupiter* were also completed in 1914, with *Saturn*, *Uranus* and *Neptune* in 1915, *Mercury* in 1916, and the entire score in 1917. The first private performance of the work was given in 1918 in London’s Royal Albert Hall, its popularity growing with the anticipation of the first public performance in 1920, played by the New Queen’s Hall Orchestra under the baton of Holst’s close friend, Sir Adrian Boult.

The first complete public performance was finally given in London at the Queen’s Hall by the London Symphony Orchestra on November 15, 1920, conducted by Albert Coates. This was the first time that Neptune had been heard in a public performance, as all the other movements had been given earlier public hearings.

Holst later conducted the London Symphony Orchestra to record the work on two occasions, 1922-23 and 1926.

It is often said that Holst incorporated some of his own musical personality traits in each movement, which also correspond to the personalities of the Roman and Greek deities that the planets are named for. Venus’s lyricism embodies relaxation, and Jupiter shows a great deal of extroversion in its wide and open melodies, while Saturn’s slow processional evokes a melancholy mood. Uranus’s mischievous tunes emulate humor and the homogeneity of harmonic language of the other movements serve as different characteristics as well: Mars’s harshness, Mercury’s ambiguity and Neptune’s mystery.

The way that Holst evokes the specific qualities and characteristics of each planet and how he uses movements to contrast one another, the listener is able to experience the effect of travelling through the solar system, pausing to thoroughly observe and appreciate the grandeur and “personality” of each planet. For example, since Neptune was the last planet discovered at the time of *The Planets* composition, Holst’s use of bitonality and dissonance evokes mystery and remoteness. His use of women’s voices at the end of the movement in a fading technique ends the work as if it is lingering into infinity. When one listens to the final diminishing chords, the experience had is as if the listener is passing by the last planet, watching it grow smaller behind them, as they move forward into the unknown of the universe.

Holst completed *The Planets* before the 1930 discovery of the (at the time) ninth planet, Pluto. Since Holst felt that the popularity of *The Planets* overshadowed other works that he felt deserved more recognition, he had no desire to compose an eighth movement. However, Colin Matthews, an English composer and Holst enthusiast, composed an orchestral work entitled *Pluto, the Renewer*, in 2000. Commissioned by the Hallé Orchestra, the work was premiered in Manchester in May of 2000, and conducted by Kent Nagano. Having worked with Holst’s daughter Imogen at the Aldeburgh Festival 1972-1984, Matthews dedicated the work to her and her father’s memory. In order to emulate Holst’s style, Matthews incorporated a women’s chorus so that the transition from *Neptune* to *Pluto* would be smooth. However, with the 2006 discovery of Pluto actually being a dwarf planet, it seems that Holst’s orchestral work is entirely complete.
Scientific Description

At 4.6 billion years old, Mars is the fourth planet from the sun and emits a bright reddish-orange color, due to the planet’s iron-rich soil. Mars has been observed thoroughly by Earth’s scientists through telescopes and space probes, but no human has ever set foot on the planet. While Mars has clouds in its atmosphere and ice deposits at its north pole, no liquid water flows on the planet’s surface, though scientists have found evidence that there was once water and life dwelling on the planet. This evidence has been discovered in meteorite materials found on Earth. Mars has deep canyons, tall mountains and the largest volcanoes in the solar system. The terrain consists mostly of crater-ridden, low-lying, flat plains which frequently experience intense dust storms. Martian temperatures range from -195° F to 70° F with an average temperature of -80° F. At roughly 140,000,000 miles away from the sun, Mars orbits the sun once every 687 Earth days.

Roman god

Mars is the ancient Roman god of war, spring, growth in nature, agriculture, terror, anger, revenge, courage and fertility. The son of Jupiter and Juno, and the lover of Venus, he is regarded as the father of the Roman people because he is the father of Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome. He is the most prominent of the military gods and was frequently worshipped by Roman legions. The month of March is named after him, as wars in ancient Rome were often started or renewed in the spring.

Greek equivalent: Ares

Origin of Name

The Romans named the planet Mars after the ancient Roman god of war because of the planet’s color association with blood.
What to Listen For

- 5/4 time
- *Ostinato*- driving and reoccurring rhythm
- *Col legno* technique in strings
- 3 main melodies
- Tri-tonal harmonies and other dissonances
- 40 measures of continuous crescendo in gong at beginning
- *Juxtaposition* of trombone and trumpet solo lines

Listing Map

**Section A:** 00:05-01:24 - Melody 1
01:24-02:08 - Melody 2

**Section B:** 02:08
02:12-03:04 - Melody 3
02:43 - *Juxtaposition* of trombone and trumpet

**Section C:** 03:04 - Time change from 5/4 to 5/2
03:12 - Melody 2

**Section A:** 04:19 - Melody 1 and time change back to 5/4
05:05 - Melody 3
05:21 - Melody 2
06:06 - Brief time change back to 5/2

**Coda:** 06:15
06:33 - Time change to 3/4

Other Facts

- The first movement to be composed
- Composed just before the outbreak of WWI in anticipation rather than influenced by “Implacable menace and savage brutality of startling vision”
II. Venus, the Bringer of Peace

Scientific Description

Referred to as Earth’s twin because of similarities in size, Venus is the second planet from the sun. After the moon, Venus is the brightest celestial object seen in the evening sky—often the first in the western sky and the last in the eastern sky. At approximately 66 million miles away from the sun, Venus orbits the sun in a nearly circular path making a complete orbit in about 225 Earth days, and rotating once every 243 Earth days. The atmosphere of the planet is constantly engulfed by thick clouds of sulfuric acid, making scientific research about the planet’s surface difficult. From exploration by space probes, with Venus being the first planet to be observed by passing space craft, scientists have gathered that the surface of Venus is extremely hot and dry—so much that no liquid water is able to flow without boiling away. 65% of Venus’s land consists of flat, smooth plains, while the remainder is mountains, canyons, valleys and volcanoes. Because of its substantial lack of craters, compared to that of other surrounding planets, scientists predict that the planet Venus is less than 1 billion years old. With a heavy, acidic atmosphere and average surface temperature of 870° F, scientists doubt that any life exists on Venus.

Roman goddess

Venus was originally a vegetation goddess and patroness of gardens and vineyards, but under Greek influence and association with the Greek goddess Aphrodite, Venus became the ancient Roman goddess of love, beauty and fertility. The daughter of Jupiter and the lover of Mars and Vulcan, Venus was named the direct ancestor to both Julius Caesar and the emperor Augustus, and played a major role in ancient Roman religious festivals. Venus was also ascribed several epithets to refer to the various roles of the goddess, including grace, purity and motherhood.

Greek equivalent: Aphrodite

Origin of Name

Venus is named in honor of the ancient Roman goddess of love and beauty, derived from its brightness and beauty in the evening sky.
What to Listen For

- 2 main melodic sections
- Thin texture and high tessitura
- Calm opening with horn and flutes
- Solos
- Use of perfect 4\textsuperscript{th} and 5\textsuperscript{th} intervals for contrast from Mars
- Bitonality, dissonance, key modulations

Listening Map

Section A: 00:01-00:36 - Calm opening and Melody 1

Section B: 01:52 - Modulation from Eb major to F# major
  01:55 and 03:04 - Violin solo
  02:37 and 03:26 - Oboe solo
  03:26 - Modulation back to Eb major
  03:33 - Clarinet solo
  04:09 - Cello solo

Section A Variations: 04:16

Section B: 05:20

Section A Restatement: 06:07
  06:43 - Bitonality (Eb and E)

Coda: 07:04

Other

- “Soothes the soul with its heady mix of purity and sensuousness”
- “Conciliatory answer to the brutality of Mars”
Scientific Description

At 36,000,000 miles away, Mercury is the closest planet of the solar system to the sun. With an elliptical-shaped orbit, Mercury moves faster around the sun than any other planet at 30 miles per second, and makes a complete orbit in only 88 Earth days. However, the planet rotates very slowly—once every 59 Earth days, which is slower than any other planet, besides Venus. As a result of the combination of a quick orbit and a slow rotation, a single day on Mercury lasts 176 Earth days. The surface of the planet is very similar to that of the Earth’s moon, as it reflects 6% sunlight and is covered by a thin layer of minerals called silicates. Mercury, like the moon, is comprised of a mixture of flat plains, steep cliffs and deep craters. Mercury is surrounded by a magnetic field, leading scientists to believe that the planet’s outer core is made of liquid iron. Because it is so close to the sun, Mercury is very dry, hot and nearly airless, with high temperatures reaching 840°F. However, nighttime temperatures can drop to -275°F with a completely black sky, due to Mercury’s lack of atmosphere. Because of its lack of oxygen and high temperatures, scientists believe existence of life is impossible.

Roman god

Mercury is the ancient Roman god of trade, profit, merchants and travelers—the circulation of people, goods and words. He is often portrayed wearing winged sandals and a winged hat, like that of his Greek counterpart, Hermes, the messenger of the gods.

Greek equivalent: Hermes

Origin of Name

Ancient Greek astronomers observed Mercury as two separate celestial objects: Apollo, visible only at sunrise and Hermes, visible only at sunset. The ancient Romans named the planet Mercury, the god of trade, whom they associated with the Greek god Hermes.
What to Listen For

- Switch between compound and simple rhythmic feel
- Bitonality- two keys simultaneously- Bb Major and A Major
- Scherzo with hemiola sections throughout
- Restatement of Mars theme
- Passing theme between solos and families of instruments

Listening Map

**Section A:**  **00:00-00:34**- Melody 1
  Hemiola section example- 00:12
  00:29- Mars ostinato theme in violins
  00:35- Melody 2

**Section B:**  **00:58**
  01:01- Melody 3 in violin solo

**Section A Variations:**  **01:57**- Melody 1
  02:20- Melody 4

**Coda:**  **03:00**
  All 3 melodies combined

Other

- “Flies past with an irrepressible, yet delicate, rhythmic drive”
Scientific Description

The largest planet in the solar system, Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun, approximately 484,000,000 miles away. The planet is so large it would take over 1,000 Earths to fill an equivalent volume. Because of its size, Jupiter is visible from Earth as the second-brightest planet, after Venus. Jupiter has very little solid surface area, and is made up primarily of gas and liquid clouds. These clouds of red, brown, yellow and white coloring comprise light areas, or zones, and darker areas known as belts. Jupiter is distinguished by its Great Red Spot, which scientists believe is an intense atmospheric disturbance due to its similarity to a hurricane. The planet orbits the sun in an elliptical shape, and takes 4,333 Earth days, or nearly 12 Earth years, to make one complete orbit. Jupiter rotates faster than any other planet, taking nearly 10 hours to spin around once. The planet’s rotational speed is measured on Earth by radio waves emitted by Jupiter that are so strong that they effortlessly reach Earth’s radio telescopes. The core of Jupiter measures about 43,000°F, while the top of the planet’s clouds range from -235° to 70°F. Jupiter also has three rings made of fine dust particles that circle around its equator.

Roman god

Jupiter is the ancient Roman king of the gods, and was the god of sky, lightning and thunder and protector of the state and its laws. The son of Saturn, the brother of Neptune and Pluto, and the husband of Juno, Jupiter is considered the patron god of Rome, whose temple was the official place of state business and sacrifices. The ancient Romans looked to Jupiter as ruler of the universe, god of the state, distributor of laws, and controller of the realm who made his will known through oracles.

Greek equivalent: Zeus

Origin of Name

Jupiter earned its name from the ancient Roman king of the gods, derived from the planet’s magnitude and the Roman people’s perception of it as powerful.
What to Listen For

- Main hymn-like melody orchestrated later by Holst- “I Vow to Thee, My Country”
- Syncopation and hemiola figures in opening melody
- *Ostinato* patterns

Listening Map

Scherzo: 

Section A: **00:00**– Ostinato
00:05- Melody 1, syncopation & hemiola
00:27- Melody 2
01:01- Melody 3
01:22- Melody 1

Section B: **01:39**- Melody 4

Transition: **02:28**

Trio: **03:00**- Melody 5, modulation from C Major to c minor

Scherzo: **04:58**

Section A: **05:08**- Restatement of Melody 1 and modulation back to C Major

Section B: **06:42**- Restatement of 2nd theme
07:18- Restatement of Melody 5, modulation to B Major

Coda: **07:36**

Other

- “Swaggeringly exuberant”
Scientific Description

The second largest planet next to Jupiter is Saturn, which is distinguished by its seven flat rings, encircling its equator. While the planet can be seen from Earth, its rings cannot. At over 940,000,000 miles away from the sun, Saturn orbits in an elliptical shape, taking 10,759 Earth days, or 12.5 Earth years to make one complete orbit. Saturn is the second fastest planet next to Jupiter in rotating, spinning at a rate of nearly 10.5 hours. While the core of Saturn is solid, the majority of the planet, including its surface, is comprised of gas with a dense layer of clouds. Since it is so far from the sun, scientists believe that the planet’s outermost temperature of -285°F and much higher inner temperature prevent any life from existing on the surface. While Saturn has the lowest density of any other planet, its mass still makes it 95 times more massive than Earth. Discovered by Galileo in the early 1600’s, Saturn’s seven rings consist of thousands of smaller rings, all made of ice. The largest and outermost ring measures over 180,000 miles across.

Roman god

Saturn is the ancient Roman god of agriculture and overseer of the sowing of seeds. His introduction of agriculture and viniculture heralded a period of peace, happiness and prosperity, known as the Golden Age. The day Saturday is named after him.

Greek equivalent: Cronus

Origin of Name

Saturn earned its name in honor of the ancient Roman god of agriculture. Based on the Greek equivalent’s status as the youngest Titan, the name Saturn affiliates the planet as the last, or “youngest,” visible planet to ancient astronomers.
What to Listen For

- Syncopated chords in basses - suggests approaching old age
- Calm ending section - suggest acceptance of old age
- Use of bass flute and bass oboe
- Ambiguity of tonality
- Bitonality and dissonances

Listening Map

Section A: 00:14- Melody 1, chords in basses
- 02:05- Melody 2
- 03:36- Melody 3
- 05:24 and 05:39- syncopation with chimes

Section B: 06:07- Melody 1
- 06:36- Bitonality- Orchestra in a minor, Harps in A major, Harp solo

Other

- Holst’s favorite movement
- “An awesome processional”
Scientific Description

Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun and the farthest planet that can be seen without a telescope. It is approximately 1,785,000,000 miles away from the sun, a distance that takes light 2.5 hours to travel, and was the first planet to be discovered since ancient times. Uranus orbits the sun in an elliptical shape and takes 30,685 Earth days, or 84 Earth years, to complete one full orbit. In terms of rotation, the planet completes one full rotation in just over 17 hours. Uranus is distinct because of its pale blue-green color from its clouds that are primarily composed of hydrogen gas. Uranus is also severely tilted on its axis, explained by a probable collision with another planet when it was first formed. Therefore, the sun shines more brightly on the planet’s poles than its equator. Like Saturn, Uranus has several rings circling it which range from 3 miles to 60 miles wide. Uranus is 14.5 times larger than Earth, but is only 1/20 the size of Jupiter. Uranus was not recognized as a planet by ancient astronomers because of its dimness and slow orbit, and was not discovered until the late 1700’s.

Greek god

Uranus is the ancient Greek god of the sky, known as the embodiment of the heavens, and plays a pivotal role in Greek creation mythology. Together with his wife Gaia, or Mother Earth, he fathered the Titans, the Cyclopes, the Hecatonshires and the Erinyes. According to the Greek poet Hesiod, Uranus was wounded by his son Cronus, the youngest Titan, and the blood spilled on the Earth created the goddess Aphrodite, among other mythological icons.

Roman equivalent: Caelus

Origin of Name

The only planet named after a Greek mythological icon, Uranus is named in honor of the ancient god of the sky. Uranus is the father of Cronus (Saturn) and the grandfather of Zeus (Jupiter).
What to Listen For

- “Interrupts” *Saturn* with 4 brass chords that reoccur throughout movement
- 4 reoccurring chords are musical letters of Holst’s name in German: G, Eb, A, B (*GuStAv H*)
- Dissonance

Listening Map

**Introduction:** 00:01- Melody 1, brass chords

**Section A:**
- 00:20- Melody 2
- 00:36- Hemiola motif
- 00:50- Melody 3
- 01:23- Melody 4
- 02:39- Melody 5

**Section B:**
- 04:12

**Coda:**
- 04:43

Other

- “Gleefully mischievous”
Scientific Description

Neptune, the eighth planet from the sun, is one of two planets that cannot be seen with a telescope, the other being Pluto. The planet travels around the sun in an elliptical orbit, approximately 2,800,000,000 miles away, and takes 165 Earth years to make one complete orbit, while taking only 16 hours to make one complete rotation. Distinct because of its bright blue color, Neptune’s gaseous surface is comprised primarily of hydrogen, helium, water and silicates with an atmosphere of clouds of frozen methane. Neptune has 11 moons and 4 circling rings made of dust particles. The planet was discovered in the mid-1800’s, purely by mathematics after scientists noticed that Uranus had unexpectedly changed positions from the unknown planet’s force of gravity.

Roman god

Neptune is the ancient Roman god of the sea and was the brother of Jupiter, Pluto and Juno. He was held in higher esteem as his epithet Neptune Equester, god and patron of horses and horse-racing.

Greek equivalent: Poseidon

Origin of Name

Neptune was named after the ancient Roman god of the sea because its deep blue clouds reminded astronomers of oceans.
What to Listen For

- 5/4 time
- Use of bass flute and women’s chorus
- Voices- two chords fading into distance at the end- representing passing the last of the planets
- Bitonality and dissonance
- Soft dynamics throughout

Listening Map

Section A: 00:00-03:30- Melody 1

Section B: 03:30- Melody 2, glissandi in harps
  03:59- Melody 3, addition of women’s chorus
  04:47- Bitonality- Orchestra in a minor, Chorus in E Major

Coda: 05:40
  06:25- fading chords

Other

- “Gleefully mischievous”
THE PLANETS CROSSWORD

Across:
1. Holst’s country of origin
3. The third planet from the sun
6. Holst’s first name
8. The Winged Messenger
10. The planet known for it’s Great Red Spot
12. The planet named for the god of the sea
13. The planet Mercury is very similar to Earth’s ____
17. The planet known for it’s rings
18. The composer of The Planets

Down:
2. Venus is considered to be Earth’s ____ because they are the same size
4. The color of planet Mars
5. The ninth planet; discovered after Holst completed The Planets
7. The only planet named for a Greek god, not Roman
9. Holst’s Venus is the Bringer of ______
11. Saturn’s rings are made of ____
13. Earth’s neighbor; planet named for the god of war
14. Roman Jupiter is the same as Greek ____
15. The planet named for the goddess of love
16. Holst named planet Neptune The ______
17. All of the planets orbit the ____
MARS
The Bringer of War
VENUS
The Bringer of Peace
MERCURY
The Winged Messenger
JUPITER
The Bringer of Jollity
SATURN
The Bringer of Old Age
URANUS
The Magician
NEPTUNE
The Mystic